

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A distributed system in which a plurality of devices are coupled to each other through a network, comprising:

a storage unit;

a processing unit; and

a communication unit,

wherein the storage unit is configured to store a service scenario and a context, wherein the service scenario describes functions necessary to provide a service and relationships between the functions, and wherein the context includes area information and selection conditions corresponding to the area information that serve as criteria for selecting one or more devices to be used in providing the service;

wherein the processing unit comprises:

an extraction unit being configured to extract the devices necessary for performing the service based on the service scenario;

a detection unit being configured to detect available devices located in an area wherein the service can be provided to a requester, each available device having one or more of the functions described as necessary to provide the service according to the service scenario;

a creation unit being configured to create correspondence information specifying a linkage between the detected devices, the correspondence information comprising function information, device information, process information, and data destination information; and

a service execution unit being configured to execute the service for the requester of the service by linking the detected devices based on the correspondence information, wherein the service execution unit allocates a plurality of processes on a single device to different users and executes the service for the different users, the service execution unit being further configured to allocate a data destination for the service based on the correspondence information when the service execution unit transmits data,

wherein, in response to a change in the area information of the context while the service is executed, the detection unit redetects available devices, and the creation unit rewrites correspondence information on linkage between the redetected devices, and

wherein the extraction unit extracts the devices by querying a server having a database that stores attribute information of the devices, and selects the devices necessary for performing the service by exchanging information between devices having the functions described in the service scenario, and

wherein the creation unit creates the correspondence information for each user requesting a service and allocates functions from a single device to different users based on the correspondence information, and releases the functions allocated to each user when the service provided to said each user is completed.

25. (Previously Presented) A distributed system according to claim 24, wherein the detection unit detects the available devices located in the area wherein the service can be provided by acquiring information on the devices extracted by the extraction unit.

26. (Previously Presented) A distributed system according to claim 24, wherein the detection unit redetects the devices in response to a change in the situation of the devices in the area wherein the service can be provided.

27. (Canceled)